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1955/03/31

Form FS-412
Le-Van-Tan - 53.453

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Amb Collins
Policy - file
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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

PRIORITY

FROM : Department

DATE : March 31, 1955 1900

No. : 4260

CLASSIFICATION : S-E-C-R-E-T

RECEIVED : ~~March~~ April 1, 1955 1345
TYPED : April 1, 1955 1730

Priority

For Collins,

I have been reading your reports of political situation developing in Saigon and fully back positions you have taken with Prime Minister and General Ely in efforts find practicable solution.

I strongly feel we should not treat government and rebellious sects on an equal plane as conversations with French officials have clearly shown they are doing. Re paragraph 12 your 4230 you may inform Ely I consider it imperative for French and American representations in Saigon to uphold full authority of national government and Prime Minister take such measures as necessary and appropriate maintain integrity and order and proceed with reform program otherwise there will be no stability and no chance for political and other progress in free Viet-Nam. However tenuous and critical present situation may be as a result of challenge from sects and resignations from Cabinet, it is earnestly hoped Diem will follow your sound advice and seize this opportunity to reconstitute as strong broadly based and competent administration as is possible with what he has to work with. This would be far preferable to French idea of Supreme Council including many questionable persons.

You have our full support and best wishes.

DULLES

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Col. Kelly informed by phone
1815 4/1/55
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By NP NLE Date 7-6-87